To ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's resources take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest

EUB Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

Contents

1 . . . . . *EUB Facts*

2 . . . . . *Message from the Chairman*

3 . . . . . *EUB Board Members*

4 . . . . . *Operations Report*

5 . . . . . *EUB Organizational Chart*

6 . . . . . *Public Safety and Sour Gas Update*

8 . . . . . *Positive Results for ADR*

10 . . . . . *Oil Sands—An Unconventional Opportunity for Alberta*

12 . . . . . *Utilities Deregulation: The Transition Continues*

15 . . . . . *Youth and Energy Development Initiative (YEDI)*

16 . . . . . *Flaring and Venting: Clearing the Air*

18 . . . . . *EUB Hosts Public at Open Houses*

20 . . . . . *Public Involvement and Building Positive Relationships*

22 . . . . . *Applications and Publication Summary*

24 . . . . . *EUB Staff in 2001*

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EUB Facts

WHO WE ARE

The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) is a provincial, quasi-judicial agency of the Alberta government that regulates Alberta's energy resources and utilities. The EUB has approximately 750 staff in 14 locations across the province, with its main office in downtown Calgary.

Although the EUB makes decisions independently, it is part of the Alberta Ministry of Energy. Many people still know us by one of our former names: the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) or the Public Utilities Board (PUB). These two entities merged in 1995 and the EUB was created; then, in 1996 the Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) also joined the EUB. With the combined history of our parent organizations, the EUB can proudly call itself the oldest regulatory agency in Alberta, dating back to 1915.

WHAT WE DO

The mission of the EUB is to ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's resources take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For the energy and utilities industries, the EUB provides

- a stable, consultative, and competent regulatory environment,
- comprehensive requirements, consistently applied and enforced,
- streamlined application review processes,
- conflict resolution among industry players (e.g., hearings, inquiries),
- resource conservation through efficient production requirements,
- a level playing field, with industry accountability for meeting operational requirements,
- accessible and up-to-date energy information, and
- coordination with other government departments for project approvals.

The public can rely on the EUB for

- public safety and environmental protection regarding energy development,
- response to public and consumer complaints for both utilities services and energy development,
- facilitation of public concerns about oil and gas development,
- the right to be heard, especially for directly affected landowners and communities,
- monitoring of energy industry operations and public consultation guidelines,
- safe and efficient utilities service at rates that are fair and reasonable,
- orderly development and conservation through efficient production and waste prevention, and
- publicly accessible information.

The EUB works closely with other government departments and agencies at all levels to

- ensure that matters of mutual concern are addressed and coordinated to avoid duplication, and
- provide information, advice, and recommendations.

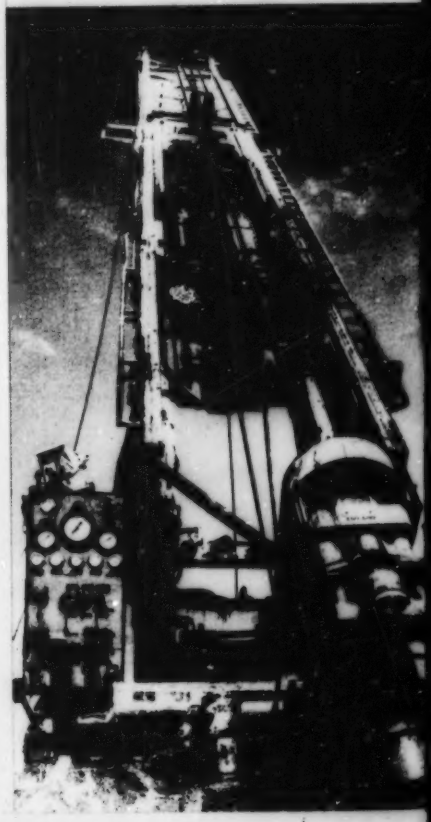
The EUB has four core functions:

1) adjudication and regulation

2) applications

3) surveillance and enforcement

4) information and knowledge



Message from the Chairman - by Neil McCrank

Neil McCrank, Chairman

To ensure that development occurs in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner, the EUB will build upon the success we have already achieved....

Part of the EUB's success has always been the ability to recognize trends and prepare for future challenges. By directing our efforts in a focused, strategic manner, we continuously ensure that the interests of Albertans are served to the maximum possible extent.

In 2001, we met all the challenges set before us and positioned ourselves for continued success in the future.

The four cores areas of our business are structured to fulfill our mandate of public service. Some of our achievements in these areas include:

- Adjudication and Regulation—We have resolved over 90 per cent of objections to facility applications without requiring a hearing.
- Applications—We have significantly reduced the time required to process routine facility applications to approximately 1.5 days.
- Surveillance and Enforcement—We conducted over 20 emergency response exercises this year to assess our ability to respond to oil spills and make improvements where necessary.
- Information and Knowledge—The Integrated Application Registry (IAR) was introduced last summer, providing the public, industry, and other stakeholders with a user-friendly process to access information about applications that have been filed with the EUB.

To fulfill our mandate to ensure that the industries we regulate operate in the public interest, we are continuing work on three important initiatives:

- Public Safety and Compliance—The Public Safety Implementation Team was formed in January 2001 to implement the recommendations made by the Provincial Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas. Work will continue throughout the coming year and in the future. We have also continued to increase public consultation requirements for industry applications.
- Utility Regulation—The deregulation of Alberta's electricity and retail natural gas markets presents us with ongoing challenges, both to meet our legislated requirements and to ensure that rates are just and reasonable. We will also continue to assist in ensuring that the marketplace is functioning in an appropriate manner. And as more power generation comes on line, Albertans should benefit from lower electricity prices.
- Conservation—Alberta's resources must be developed in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest. We will continue to expand our role of monitoring and forecasting levels of oil, natural gas, and oil sands reserves.

Looking ahead, we have identified a number of challenges. One of the most critical involves landowner/industry relations and the sensitive issues that arise when business considerations must be weighed against potential impacts.

Another challenge is planning for long-term growth in Alberta's energy industry. Currently the future is heavily tied to capital-intensive projects, such as those associated with oil sands development. There are billions of dollars now intended for oil sands projects that will tap a resource containing more oil than Saudi Arabia. To ensure that development occurs in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner, the EUB will build upon the success we have already achieved through promoting facilitation of disputes at the field level or by engaging appropriate dispute resolution mediators.

The EUB has established a worldwide reputation for excellence and is widely regarded and studied as a model for other regulatory agencies. As we move ahead, our collaborative approach, skilled staff, and organizational dedication will ensure that we continue to meet the challenges that lie before us.

EUB Board Members

Operations Report - by Earle Shirley, Chief Operating Officer

Earle Shirley, Chief Operating Officer

We are fully confident that challenges, whether known or unforeseen, will be met steadfastly by our creative and talented staff, as was the case in 2001.

Every year, the EUB faces numerous challenges. High industry activity and new regulatory initiatives and responsibilities generally keep our staff extremely busy. Last year presented some unique challenges when we were all confronted with the terrible events that took place on September 11, 2001.

Our primary goal has always been to assure safety, both for the public and for industry. The events in New York have further affirmed our dedication to achieving this to the best of our ability. Not only did 9/11 impact us individually, but there have been repercussions in how the EUB works as an organization—from enhanced security measures on every level, to a heightened sense of concern about the industries we regulate and the public we serve.

Overall, activity levels at the EUB increased slightly over 2000. The total number of applications received increased to 61 000, compared to 60 000 in 2000 and 52 000 in 1999. The Utilities Branch was also called upon once again to meet a number of deadlines for legislated requirements on electricity deregulation, pricing, and natural gas.

The Utilities Branch put out 75 decisions related to electricity and natural gas rates, terms and conditions, facilities, and other issues related to deregulation last year. In 2000, there were 71 utilities decisions. Overall, there were 96 decisions issued in 2001, the same total as in the prior year.

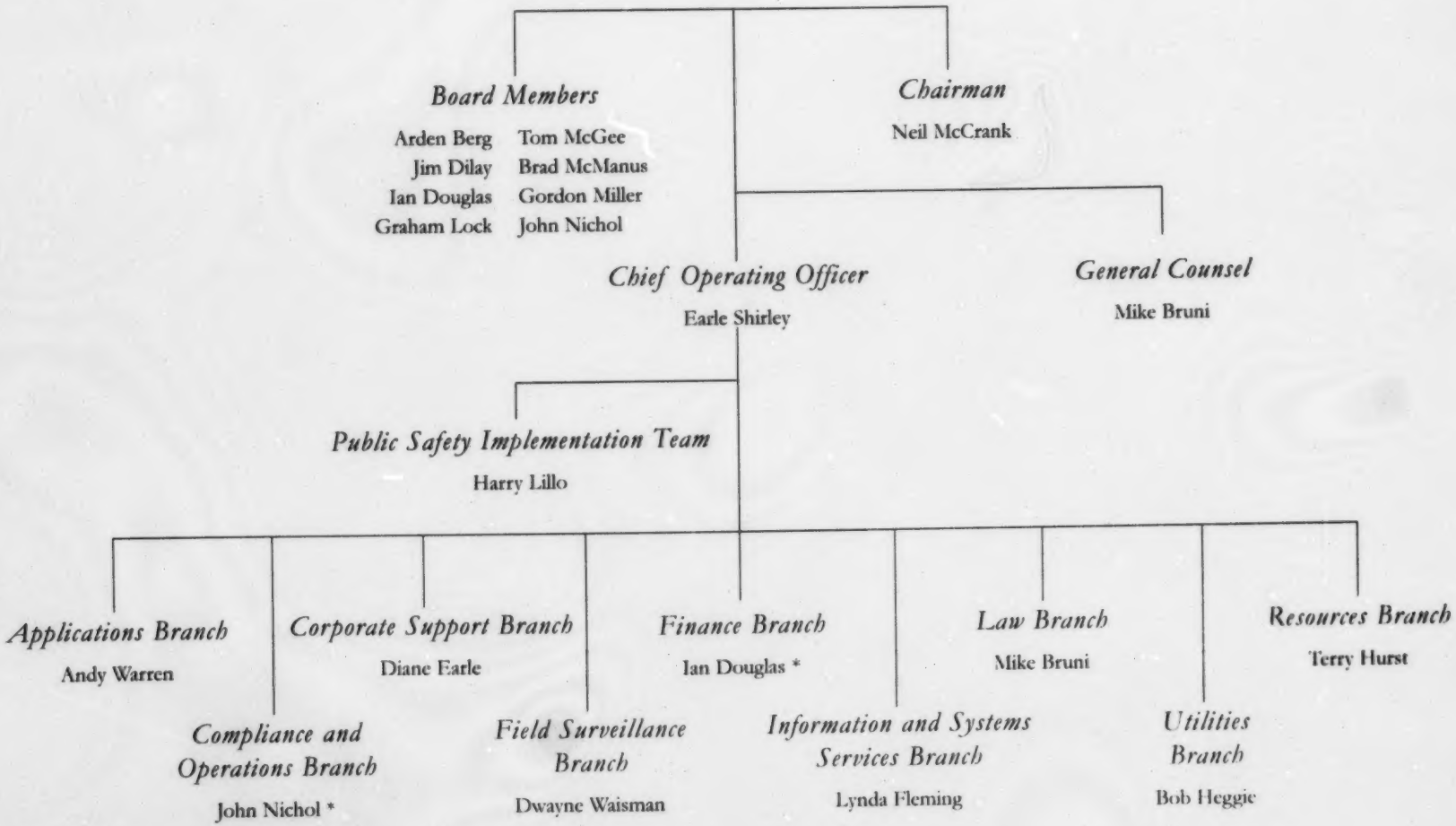
In this atmosphere of high demands and strong activity, our staff continued to meet the demand and improve operational efficiency. For example, in 1998 our Compliance and Operations Branch established a goal to reduce solution gas flaring by 25 per cent by 2001; by year-end, the reduction percentage was close to 50 per cent—well in excess of the original target.

We have also built on our commitment to improve communication with Albertans, listen to their concerns, and find solutions. There are currently several high-profile initiatives under way that highlight the EUB's efforts in this area:

- Open Houses—Local residents were invited to attend information sessions in several areas of high oil and gas activity in Alberta, including High Level, Midnapore, Rocky Mountain House, and Pincher Creek. The total participation, including EUB staff and stakeholders, numbered 422.
- Public Safety and Sour Gas—The ongoing commitment to implement the 87 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas continues. The EUB's Public Safety Implementation Team has made significant progress; as was reported in the *PSASG Annual Report for 2001*, work has begun on 48 recommendations, and 11 have already been completed.
- Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR)—To more effectively handle disputes between industry and landowners, the EUB launched the ADR program in January 2001. A full process description, detailed statistics, and comments from participants are included in the recently published *ADR Annual Report for 2001*. Feedback has been generally positive, with 97 per cent of respondents indicating they would take part in ADR again. EUB staff completed 115 facilitations in 2001, of which 98 were fully resolved (85 per cent) by year-end. Of the 30 third-party mediations initiated, 23 were landowner/industry disputes, of which 17 were completed and 76 per cent resolved. The remaining 7 were industry/industry related, of which 6 were completed and fully resolved.

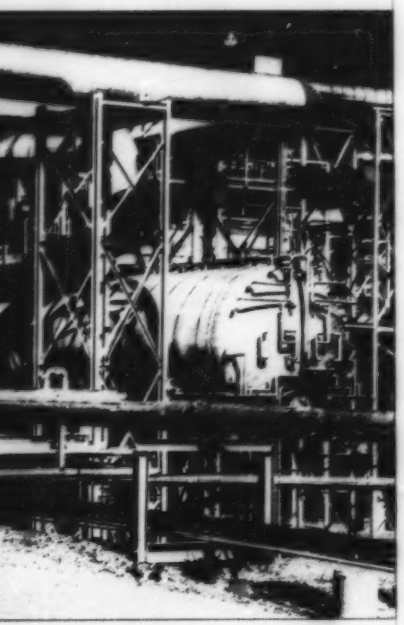
As we move ahead into 2002, the EUB continues to focus on its core values of fairness, competence, and quality service.

EUB Organizational Chart



* Appointed to Board in 2001

Public Safety and Sour Gas Update



In April 2001, the EUB's Public Safety Implementation Team (PSIT) unveiled its Year-One Implementation Plan for the major regulatory initiative known as Public Safety and Sour Gas (PS&SG).

It is safe to say that this initiative will significantly affect the Alberta petroleum industry and change energy development within the province. It is also safe to say that never before has the EUB committed to such significant regulatory change.

BACKGROUND

In January 2000, the EUB announced the formation of a blue-ribbon Provincial Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas, with a mandate to speak to Albertans and delve into issues on the future development of Alberta's sour gas resources. Sour gas is natural gas that contains varying amounts of poisonous hydrogen sulphide (H_2S). Sour gas now accounts for about one-third of all the natural gas produced in the province; it will become an increasingly important resource in the immediate future, as so-called "sweet" gas (natural gas without any H_2S content) reserves are produced and depleted.

Led by former EUB Chairman Gerry McSorcy, the advisory committee toured the province, heard the views of thousands of Albertans, and in December 2000 presented the EUB with 87 significant recommendations in its final report[1].

Upon receiving the recommendations of the advisory committee, the EUB immediately established the PSIT to develop a plan of action for accomplishing these tasks and to coordinate ongoing implementation. The recommendations were grouped into five categories:

- Health Effects and Sour Gas Research
- Sour Gas Development Planning and Approval
- Sour Gas Operations
- Emergency Preparedness
- Information, Communication, and Consultation

SCOPE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Working with a budget of $2.6 million, the EUB committed to begin work on 50 of the 87 recommendations[2] during the first year of a multiyear program.

Senior staff from across the EUB form the numerous working groups responsible for making progress on PS&SG implementation. The results of the PS&SG initiative will have a considerable impact on energy development in Alberta. For this reason, it was decided very early on that a key feature would be extensive and open communications with all stakeholders, including issuing quarterly and annual progress reports, all available on the EUB Web site at <www.eub.gov.ab.ca>.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As the EUB moves forward on projects designed to meet the recommendations, the impact this work may have on industry, the public, and other government and nongovernment agencies determines the extent of stakeholder engagement in each case.

Two excellent examples of the importance of stakeholder engagement are

- Recommendation 72—To provide the public with user-friendly tools for obtaining necessary and required information from industry personnel related to project plans, the public's rights and

responsibilities related to sour gas development, and whom to contact for more information.

- Recommendations 54, 60, and 61—To ensure that all emergency response plans (ERPs) meet EUB requirements and adequately address site-specific matters prior to approval, ensure that every emergency planning zone (EPZ) is defined based on appropriate criteria, using the EUB standard approach, and ensure that approval of a reduced EPZ does not impact human health by also reducing ERP resources or response time to the area.

RECOMMENDATION 72

The intent is to provide the public with user-friendly tools for obtaining necessary and required information related to project plans from industry personnel. In the course of fulfilling the recommendation, the public will be apprised of their rights and responsibilities related to sour gas development and whom they can contact for more information.

The concept of developing a list of potential questions for landowners to raise with industry representatives arose when the advisory committee heard Albertans "express concerns about the lack of consistent interaction between the public and industry to keep the public informed…and to help resolve concerns…."

To better understand this recommendation, senior EUB staff put themselves in the shoes of the public and began to develop the questions list. However, the need for considerable public involvement was also recognized, and so a separate explanatory letter and invitation to develop and submit suggested questions was sent to stakeholders. Subsequently, a combined list of questions was compiled. Aside from individual members of the public, other stakeholders included various synergy groups, the Farmers Advocate, Alberta Cattle Commission, and various petroleum industry associations.

RECOMMENDATIONS 54, 60, AND 61

The intent of the project that combines these recommendations is to ensure that

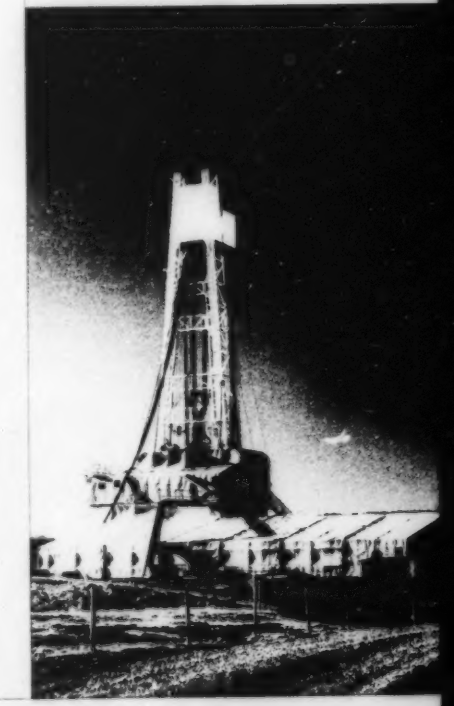
1) all ERPs meet EUB requirements and adequately address site-specific matters prior to approval,
2) every EPZ is defined based on appropriate criteria using the EUB standard approach, and
3) approval of a reduced EPZ does not impact human health by also reducing ERP resources or response time to the area.

The need for site-specific ERP updates involves an equally stringent stakeholder engagement process that is ongoing. In this case, the advisory committee's recommendations resulted in the EUB undertaking a full review of its current emergency preparedness requirements. This involved reviewing such items as

- approval of ERPs,
- determination of calculated EPZs,
- use of reduced EPZs
- requests for reduced EPZs
- notification expectations for areas beyond a reduced EPZ,
- mandatory ERP requirements for a reduced EPZ,
- immediate ignition of uncontrolled flow from a well,
- monitoring,
- evacuation, and
- coordination with other emergency response agencies.

To begin the complex consultation process required for these topics, the EUB issued *Interim Directive (ID) 2001-5* to all oil and gas operators in Alberta in August 2001. This directive outlines the scope of the work being undertaken and clarifies that while the emergency response review is ongoing, there are numerous

In the course of fulfilling the recommendation, the public will be apprised of their rights and responsibilities related to sour gas development and whom they can contact for more information.



emergency planning rules and regulations in place that remain in effect until further notice. Stakeholder consultation with regard to emergency planning is continuing.

WHAT'S AHEAD

By the end of 2001, the EUB had implemented project work on 49 of the advisory committee's recommendations on PS&SG. The implications of this work and the work scheduled to begin in 2002 will be far reaching for both the public and the industry in the near to mid-term future. In a brochure issued to the general public in April 2001, EUB Chairman Neil McCrank summed up the EUB's response to the advisory committee's report and the 87 recommendations by saying:

> The EUB welcomes all of the Committee's recommendations because we know our attention to them will make us an even stronger regulator. We also cannot help but be concerned that some of the public's confidence in us has been impacted. And we want to correct that too.
>
> The EUB's mission is to ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's resources take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest. And while "public interest" encompasses many things—social, economic, environmental—let there be no mistake, public safety is our first priority. Energy resources and energy revenues are important to the people of Alberta, but for the Board to find that any energy development is in the public interest, it must be convinced that public safety can be adequately protected.

Through the PS&SG initiative, the EUB will continue to build a regulatory framework that inspires public confidence in an atmosphere of open dialogue, integrity, accountability, and excellence.

1 *PS&SG Findings and Recommendations Final Report*, Public Safety and Sour Gas Advisory Committee, December 2000. Available on line at <http://publicsafetyandsourgas.org>.

2 *Public Safety and Sour Gas Implementation Plans*, Public Safety and Sour Gas Implementation Team, EUB, April 2001. Available online: <http://www.eub.gov.ab.ca/bbs/public/sourgas/sourgas.htm>.

Positive Results for ADR

On January 8, 2001, the EUB published *Informational Letter (IL) 2001-1: Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program and Guidelines for Energy Industry Disputes*, formally launching its Appropriate Dispute Resolution Program. The program creates the opportunity for parties to seek a mutually acceptable solution without forfeiting their rights to any other alternative, including the EUB hearing process.

With the assistance of a multiparty stakeholder committee, the program was developed during the year 2000. The committee chose to use the term "appropriate"—rather than "alternative," also commonly used in reference to dispute resolution processes—in order to indicate to participants that there are dispute resolution options available and that they should choose the one most appropriate to their situation. The two main options are

- EUB staff facilitations, and
- engaging independent mediators, who first run a Preliminary ADR meeting and then, if the parties wish, further mediation.

If no resolution or only a partial resolution occurs using the above options, a dispute likely goes to an EUB hearing for decision.

Typically, the majority of disputes are resolved without the involvement of EUB staff or service providers and mediators. In 2001, the ADR Program was actually used for only a very small percentage of the total applications considered by the EUB. However, when disputes did arise, the ADR Program helped people explore and understand each other's interests and develop acceptable solutions together.

EUB staff have now been trained to provide help through facilitation. When third-party professional assistance is needed, parties may consult the ADR Program's roster of 3 service providers and 26 mediators.

Throughout 2001, the stakeholder committee's role was to develop and maintain this roster of third-party service providers and mediators, monitor and evaluate the ADR Program, recommend improvements or alterations to the program, and issue periodic progress reports. The committee also helped to develop evaluation forms to generate feedback from participants.

The evaluation process for the ADR Program, which included written feedback from participants and analysis of the data, has yielded the following highlights.

HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT

The program has been successful, indicated by the high level of support received from participants. Of those who provided feedback, 97 per cent said they would participate in ADR again, and 94 per cent indicated they would recommend that others try the program.

EUB STAFF PARTICIPATION A KEY

Participation of EUB staff is a key component in the success of the ADR Program. In 2001, 161 field staff facilitations were initiated between landowners and companies, and 115 were completed, with 98, or 85 per cent, fully resolved.

All mediation participants indicated that the EUB staff involvement was highly satisfactory; it greatly assisted in the legitimacy of the process, enabled the development of reasonable options, and led to successful resolutions.

THIRD-PARTY PROFESSIONALS HELPFUL

Third-party dispute resolution experts (service providers and mediators) dealt successfully with many of the more difficult conflicts. In 2001, 30 disputes were referred to dispute resolution experts, and 23 were completed, with 19, or 82 per cent, resolved.

TIME AND MONEY SAVED

The average time to reach resolution from the point of referral was 28 days, and the average cost for the service was approximately $4,300. These timelines and costs are substantially less than those of an EUB hearing.

A unique, innovative feature of the ADR Program is the opportunity it provides to potentially affected parties in a dispute to attend a Preliminary ADR meeting to explore whether an ADR option, such as mediation, would be appropriate to their situation.

PADR MEETINGS IMPORTANT

The Preliminary Appropriate Dispute Resolution (PADR) meeting is a key component of the program.

PADR meetings allow the parties to make informed decisions about their resolution options. They also allow the parties, often for the first time, to work together. The parties discuss and agree to information requirements, authority, commitments, costs, and deadlines.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2002

Thanks to all the participants who provided feedback, the EUB and the ADR stakeholder committee will work to increase the awareness of ADR in Alberta communities and continue to monitor the effectiveness of the process. The EUB recognizes that the key to maintaining the initial success of ADR will be through ongoing communication about this resolution process.

Oil Sands—An Unconventional Opportunity for Alberta

Oil sands are immobile, solid-like materials found at varying depths consisting of mixtures of sand, clay, water and bitumen. Bitumen is what developers are after—the thick, heavy oil with the consistency of molasses contained in the spaces between sand grains. Near-surface deposits are mineable with huge truck and shovel operations. Deeper oil sands deposits are recoverable by in situ methods, which facilitate the flow of bitumen towards wells in order to be pumped to the surface. Although most people may think that oil sands operations mean truck and shovel or other surface mining operations, reserves of Alberta's in situ bitumen are roughly five times the size of those of the mineable near-surface deposits.

There is no question as to the growing significance that the Alberta oil sands play in today's energy picture. And the EUB is the primary agency to decide if an oil sands development meets regulatory requirements and can proceed. Given the scope and impacts of these projects, this is an extremely challenging task, not only for the EUB but also for all stakeholders whose lives are connected in some way with these very large developments.

Alberta's oil sands exist in three main areas: the Peace River, Athabasca, and Cold Lake. In total, these areas cover about 80 000 square kilometres, with the surface mining confined to sections just north of the city of Fort McMurray (see map). These areas represent a huge resource base for the North American and world oil markets for many years into the future.

ALBERTA RESERVES SECOND ONLY TO SAUDI ARABIA

When compared to other countries, oil reserves from Alberta's oil sands are second only to Saudi Arabia's oil reserves. This clearly shows that Alberta is among the very top players in the world in sustained oil supply. And although these "nonconventional" reserves, as oil sands resources are often called, present daunting challenges to recovery techniques, these challenges have been steadily and successfully addressed over the years.

As proof, a comparison of conventional and nonconventional oil production clearly shows a trend towards nonconventional sources. This year, for the first time about 50 per cent of Alberta oil production comes from nonconventional sources, such as the oil sands areas, the highest this percentage has been in Alberta's history. And this percentage is expected to continue to grow. In addition, many more companies are now considering investing billions of dollars in future oil sands developments.

While other areas of the world, just like Alberta, may show declines in their reserves base, Alberta has the option to exploit its oil sands. Like the switch-hitter in baseball who is able to move to the other side of the plate to increase his chances for success, this ability to shift the oil production resource base from conventional to nonconventional, while maintaining and even increasing annual production targets, helps Alberta's chances for success. In many ways, this situation is unique in the world.

GAS OVER BITUMEN—A NEW CHALLENGE FOR THE OIL SANDS

Although only one new major oil sands project was approved last year by the EUB (Suncor's "Firebag" Project), 2001 saw continued development of Alberta's oil sands areas stemming from major projects approved earlier. 2001 also saw continued debate among oil and gas companies about how to resolve an issue specific to oil sands areas: that of "gas over bitumen," which relates to various proposed in situ oil sands projects.

Accumulations of natural gas found in contact and/or pressure communication with bitumen are referred to as associated gas. In Alberta's oil sands areas, the petroleum and natural gas rights are leased separately from oil sands rights. This means that different companies can have the rights to different resources (natural gas or bitumen) in the same geologic zone. Pressure depletion of the gas pools in association with the oil sands zones may adversely affect the recovery of bitumen to the extent that the bitumen might not be recoverable.

In many in situ projects, steam-assisted gravity drainage, or the SAGD process, is considered by many to hold much promise for more efficient recoveries of bitumen from oil sands in the future. The gas over bitumen issue has to do with the science and mechanics of SAGD and the potential impact that gas production from nearby projects might have on its operations.

Typically, pairs of horizontal wells are drilled, one for steam injection and one for production. Under the ground, the horizontal wells run parallel to each other in the bitumen zone, with the production well located below the injection well. Steam is injected into the reservoir from the injection well and, as the steam permeates the oil sands, the bitumen is heated, allowing it to flow, and the bitumen is then pumped to the surface via the production well.

GAS OVER BITUMEN HEARINGS

The EUB has been dealing with the gas over bitumen issue for several years now and has held a number of hearings on it, including one in 2001. An important aspect of these hearings is determining if there would be negative impacts on bitumen recovery (such as resource loss and/or less efficient operations) when associated gas production occurs in advance of SAGD operations. These determinations require assessments of complex, highly technical resource management issues.

Nevertheless, with numerous applications before it, the EUB must determine the impacts of producing these "competing resources" in a way that is fair and based on the best scientific information available. True to its conservation roots, the EUB would like to ensure that both gas and bitumen resources are developed in ways that maximize resource recovery and minimize resource loss. However, finding this optimum balance in the case of gas over bitumen is not an easy task.

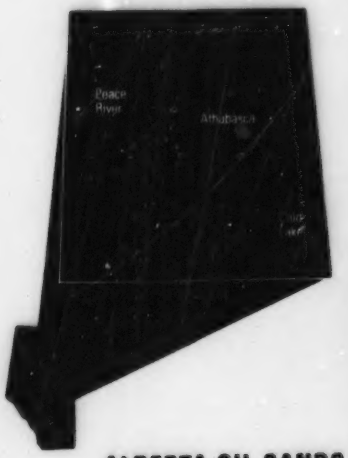
To work towards consensus and reduce regulatory uncertainty associated with gas and bitumen development in oil sands areas, the Government-Industry Advisory Group on Gas and Bitumen Conservation in Oil Sands Areas was formed in April 2001. This group's work is one avenue through which progress is being made to better understand the gas over bitumen issue, helping the EUB better manage and regulate these resources.

OIL SANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental impacts associated with oil sands development are also an ongoing concern that the EUB and other regulators must deal with. These potential impacts include surface disturbances, air emissions, water quality and flows, impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, and the overall health of the northeastern boreal forest. In response to these challenges, the Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) was created, bringing together many regional stakeholders from industry, First Nations, environmental groups, and government agencies.

CEMA's goal is to create an effective process for managing cumulative environmental effects. CEMA is working to define environmental capacities in the region by reviewing all existing data, research, and traditional knowledge and making recommendations for further monitoring or research if required. To ensure that environmental thresholds are not exceeded, CEMA is also developing management plans to provide recommendations to regulators. It is a challenging task, and an extremely important one for Alberta and the entire industry. The EUB supports CEMA, as it represents the kind of commitment and long-term planning necessary for the sustainable development of the oil sands in this important Alberta region.

For the EUB and many other stakeholders, the responsible development of our oil sands resources will continue to be a priority for years to come. These resources are vital to Canada's future oil production and hold the potential to meet the continued demands for oil from an energy hungry world.



ALBERTA OIL SANDS

Oil sands area = 80 000 square kilometres

Flared and vented
1224 10^6 m^3

(10^6 m^3 = million cubic metres)

Utilities Deregulation: The Transition Continues

Over the last few years many aspects of the utility industries have changed due to Alberta's commitment to a deregulated marketplace. For industry and consumers alike, this has meant learning to adapt to new roles, new choices, and a different way of thinking about utilities and their services as Alberta's transition to full deregulation continues.

Passage of legislation initiated the restructuring of the utility industries in a variety of ways. Utility companies were required to become "unbundled," so that business activities such as generation, transmission, and/or distribution would operate as separate businesses. Accordingly, this also meant that each business would be treated separately for regulatory purposes. Despite the buzzword "deregulation," major sectors of the utility industries will likely always remain subject to significant regulation. This is especially true for the transmission and distribution systems, given the many kilometres of wires and pipelines needed to move energy products from their source to consumers and the cost of building duplicate systems and services, which would be expensive and inefficient for all stakeholders.

Therefore, there remain significant roles for the EUB to play. We must continue to regulate large investor-owned gas and electric utilities in Alberta, ensuring that rates consumers pay are fair and that the service provided is safe and adequate. In addition, the EUB is required to regulate Alberta utilities in ways that allow them to earn sufficient revenues to recover their operating costs and to maintain viable businesses. The EUB must therefore balance the needs of consumers with the needs of utility companies. Achieving an appropriate balance is particularly challenging in our current circumstances, with occasional rapid changes to energy costs coupled with major sectors of the utility industries attempting to adapt to new roles.

Looking back over 2001, a few areas stand out in the EUB's landscape of utility regulation. Some have to do with prominent electric power plant applications, and others apply more to the rate approval aspects broadly impacting Alberta consumers; all were dealt with in the context of the "new world" of utility regulation.

THREE MAJOR POWER PLANT APPLICATIONS

Although there have been changes in the electric industry, approval of electrical generating facilities remains an EUB responsibility. The EUB must ensure that, if approved, facilities are built in an efficient and responsible way, with due regard for their operational, siting, and environmental impacts. This role has not changed under deregulation. However, the price that the energy from new generating units can be sold for is no longer regulated by the EUB. Instead, the free marketplace must determine the price, and investment decisions must be made on that basis.

Three major power plant applications were dealt with in 2001:

- AES Calgary ULC's application for a 525 megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired power plant located just east of Calgary city limits,
- EPCOR Generation Inc. and EPCOR Power Development Corporation's application for a 490 MW expansion at its existing coal-fired Genesee power plant located some 80 kilometres (km) west of Edmonton, and
- TransAlta Energy Corporation's application to construct and operate two 450 MW generating units at its existing Keephills coal-fired power plant site located about 70 km west of Edmonton.

Each application was considered by the Board through separate hearings at locations close to the proposed development. All three applications were ultimately approved, representing a potential

addition of over 1900 MW to the electric system (1 MW is 1000 kilowatts, roughly equivalent to the amount of energy consumed in one year by 1000 typical Canadian households). If all three power plants are ultimately brought on line, these facilities alone represent about a 20 per cent increase in Alberta's electricity supply capabilities (current Alberta generation capability is about 10 000 MW, while peak demand is generally about 8000 MW).

Although each application was approved, a number of conditions specific to each approval were designated by the Board based on the information and evidence brought forward at the hearings. Many had to do with ensuring that Board is satisfied that the health and safety of the local community has been safeguarded through the design and operational features of the plant and the strict compliance with provincial environmental guidelines and EUB requirements.

A notable feature of EPCOR's project is that it represents the first coal-fired power plant approved by the EUB in over 20 years. But an even more noteworthy feature of both the EPCOR and TransAlta approvals is the Board's new approach to the potential "grandfathering" of these facilities in the event of future changes to emission standards.

EUB RECOMMENDS AN END TO GRANDFATHERING

The term "grandfathering" is sometimes used to describe exemptions from newer standards for older facilities due to their being approved and built prior to the new standards being introduced. On June 15, 2001, Alberta Environment (AENV) introduced more stringent emission requirements for all proposed new coal-fired power plants. These lower emission requirements dealt with the by-products of coal combustion, specifically nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and sulphur dioxide.

While each of the three projects above will meet these new standards, coal-fired power generation projects such as EPCOR's and TransAlta's have operational lives measured in decades. Therefore, the Board concluded that it is important for new power plants to incorporate flexibility in the plant designs for future improvements on environmental performance, should more strict emission standards be reasonably foreseeable. The Board recommended that each project take into account the likelihood of stricter environmental standards and, in particular, more stringent emissions source standards likely to be established in the near term by provincial and federal governments. The Board recommended to AENV that the notion of grandfathering—the exemption from future, stricter environmental standards—is inappropriate in these situations.

CONSUMER PRICES FOR ELECTRICITY

As noted earlier, a significant change to operations of all new power plants in Alberta is that the price that this energy can be sold for is no longer regulated by the EUB. Instead, the free market—place determines the price. In these transition years, consumers have been allowed a number of years to fully adjust to these changes, which has included some rebate programs from the Alberta government.*

In 2001, wholesale electricity prices declined substantially from late 2000, and the new, lower 2002 rates reflect those decreases. However, utilities have not yet recovered all their costs from 2000 and 2001 and must be repaid. The total net bill is also affected by the expiry of the Alberta Government rebates put in place for the year 2001 to shield customers from high electricity prices.

DEFERRAL ACCOUNTS

Electricity deferral accounts are designed to ensure that customers pay only for the cost of electricity, that is, for the costs of raw energy alone. In 2001, these costs reflected the higher costs incurred by the utilities over the cost they were approved to charge consumers by the Alberta government for that year. (Distribution utilities make

The opportunity to reset natural gas rates on a monthly basis is a more responsive approach to market price determinations in the deregulated market.

their profit on delivery of the energy through fixed and consumption-based delivery charges.) Deferral accounts can be negative or positive, depending on how close actual electricity prices are to the rate prescribed by the Minister of Energy in 2001 (2001 Regulated Rate Option Deferral Account) or the costs approved by the EUB in 2000 (2000 Pool Price Deferral Account).

In 2000 and the first half of 2001, electricity rates increased unexpectedly, well above the approved rates of some utilities. The government delayed payment of this deficit by customers until 2002. This measure provided stability to electricity prices during the transition period from a regulated to deregulated market, recognizing that the deferral account balances had to be repaid.

CONSUMER PRICES FOR NATURAL GAS

With Alberta's commitment to a deregulated natural gas marketplace, consumers' natural gas prices depend primarily on the market forces of supply and demand. Consumers' natural gas bills can be divided into two main parts: (1) the distribution charges, (2) and the gas supply charges, the actual gas burned. The biggest portion of most gas bills reflects the gas supply charges. The price consumers pay for this portion of their bill is called the Gas Cost Recovery Rate, or GCRR.

Utilities are not allowed to make a profit on GCRR. It is a straight flow-through cost passed directly on to consumers. Utilities base their profits on the distribution charges, which have, over the years, remained relatively stable. The market price of natural gas, however, has fluctuated considerably over the past several years. In 2001, the *EUB issued Decision 2001-75*, which established that effective April 2002, a new GCRR would be set every month, instead of only twice a year as in previous regulatory processes. Past GCRRs caused a lot of "over and under deferral account balances to accrue. The opportunity to reset natural gas rates on a monthly basis is a more responsive approach to market price determinations.

MONTHLY RATE ALLOWS MORE ACCURATE GAS BILLING

The monthly GCRR approach has advantages. Since the natural gas rate that consumers pay is closer to the actual market value, utilities companies avoid large deficits or surpluses that have to be covered through rate-riders or distributed back to consumers. For consumers concerned about month-to-month fluctuations in prices that may make budgeting difficult, one alternative is to utilize the budget programs available from ATCO Gas North and South. Another is to sign with an independent gas marketer that offers long-term contracts at a set rate.

THE FUTURE FOR UTILITY REGULATION

For the EUB, changes have been made to the scope of some our mandates. Nevertheless, there remains a clear need for providing equity, fairness, and due process to all stakeholders through these challenging times. For example, dealing with future electricity transmission constraints is an extremely important issue, and an EUB hearing has already been scheduled to review and deal with this in the spring and summer of 2002. This important hearing will deal with the needed upgrading of Alberta's interconnected transmission system and determining, in the fairest way possible, what portion of these costs various stakeholders should pay.

For consumers, utility deregulation in Alberta essentially means that the price for raw energy (electricity or natural gas) and its retail sale to customers will be subject to the rules of the marketplace. This does not mean that there are no rules, only that the usual rules of a fair, competitive marketplace should apply. Adapting to these changes will take time and, as mentioned before, requires a different way of thinking about utilities and the services they provide.

* Alberta Government's "Customer Choice" Web site <www.customerchoice.gov.ab.ca>

Youth and Energy Development Initiative (YEDI)

In early spring 2001, the Alberta government released the cross-government priorities for 2001-2002, which included an initiative focused on Alberta's youth. The vision of this program is to ensure that Alberta children and youth are well cared for, safe, succesful at learning and healthy.

For its part, the EUB took this opportunity to develop the Youth and Energy Development Initiative (YEDI) to promote awareness of oil and gas development and regulation and to provide resources to Alberta's children. YEDI was approved by the Board in the fall of 2001. It embodies the EUB's organizational values of helpfulness, timeliness, and accessibility.

With a proven track record in developing educational resources that extends back to the days of the Energeum (1983-1999), the EUB developed a three-component, interactive learning program. The materials focus specifically on energy and regulation and are targeted at grades 3 to 7 as a supplement to the mandatory requirements of the Alberta Learning Science Curricula.

It is hoped that the successful first year of YEDI, as detailed below, will lead to ongoing development of youth initiatives at the EUB.

SCIENCE-IN-A-CRATE

In partnership with the Science Alberta Foundation (SAF), the EUB developed a science crate of hands-on activities related to oil and gas issues, including odours, noise, and blowout prevention. Beginning in September 2002, the science crate will be circulated for three years through the existing host network of SAF. In 2001, SAF science crates reached nearly 140 000 Albertans in 131 communities.

PETROLEUM PLAY ACTIVITY BOOKLET

Originally conceived by Energeum staff, the *Petroleum Play* and *Energizer* activity booklets have been updated to include new characters and learning games. The new *Petroleum Play* booklet has been distributed to schools, children's hospitals, women's shelters, community groups, and EUB Field Centres. It will also be available on the upcoming EUB children's Web site.

CHILDREN'S WEB SITE

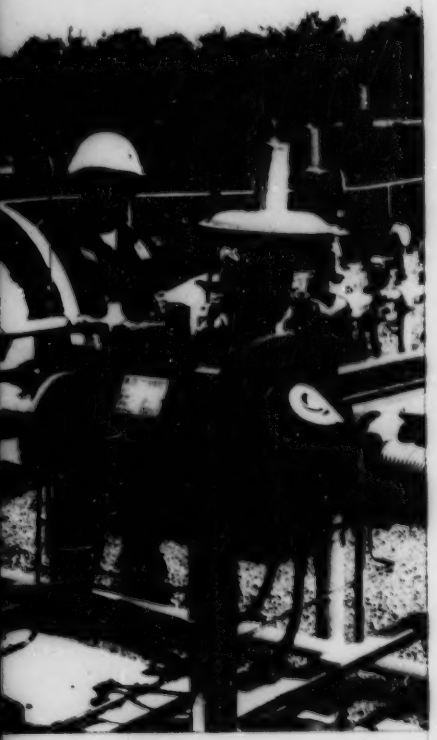
The EUB is in the process of developing a Kidzone on the EUB Web site that will incorporate components of the *Petroleum Play* activity booklet in an interactive format. It is scheduled to go live in late August 2002.

Each component of YEDI is designed to teach students, through a hands-on or interactive approach, about various oil and gas issues, such as the history of the industry, sour gas development and regulation, flaring and venting, field inspections, safety, career opportunities, and a lot more.

Marketing of the program to youth and teachers across Alberta will begin in the summer of 2002. It is hoped that this program will become a valuable resource for teachers and students as they learn more about the EUB and the regulation of the oil and gas industry in Alberta.

The YEDI plan of action was approved by the Board in the fall of 2001 and embodies the EUB's commitment to quality service—helpfulness, timeliness, efficiency, accessibility, and being proactive and adaptive.

Flaring and Venting: Clearing the Air



Consider two concepts: "change" and "success." Some could argue those two words have little in common and are often, in fact, at odds with each other.

For the EUB, however, the two concepts are more than related—they are tied inseparably together. That's because, as the provincial regulator, any changes we make in our regulatory framework must result in some type of measurable success.

Gratifyingly, one of our most notable measurable successes over the past couple of years is both measurable and hugely successful in numerous ways: significant reductions in environmental impacts, conservation of a valuable nonrenewable resource, reducing the chief cause of the impacts, and receiving international recognition for its success.

We are referring, of course, to the EUB's program for reducing flaring and venting of natural gas within Alberta and to the ongoing efforts being made by multiple stakeholders to make this initiative even more successful in the years to come.

In the mid- to late-1990s ... the issue of flaring began receiving more and more public, industry, and regulatory scrutiny.

BACKGROUND

In the mid- to late-1990s, with the increased attention given to flaring because of environmental concerns, the issue of flaring began receiving more and more public, industry, and regulatory scrutiny. As well, the question of data accuracy around flaring statistics resulted in the EUB taking steps to improve the quality of flaring and venting data it received from industry.

In February 1997, the EUB, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), and the Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development agreed to participate in the joint tripartite chairmanship of a Flaring Project Team established by the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA). This team began to review the practice of flaring within the province.

On June 7, 1999, the joint Flaring Project Team won an Alberta Emerald Foundation Award for Environmental Excellence under the Not-For-Profit category at the Eighth Annual Emerald Awards ceremony.

The CASA report, *Management of Routine Solution Gas Flaring in Alberta*, was presented to the EUB in June 1998, and an EUB-supported flaring implementation team was established in July 1998 to use the CASA report as a starting point to develop new requirements on gas conservation, flaring, and venting.

This team also included representatives from many stakeholder groups, including the EUB, Alberta Environment, Alberta Resource Development, and petroleum industry associations, along with significant stakeholder engagement with environmental groups and individuals. The end result of this process was EUB *Guide 60: Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring Guide*, which was introduced in July 1999 and came into effect on January 1, 2000.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING

To help measure the success of results obtained for flaring and venting reductions and to share those results publicly, the EUB announced plans to annually publish company rankings that would show an individual company's flared and vented volumes. In this

publication, first issued in July 2000, the EUB reports on solution gas flared for each company, making it easier for companies to track their own performance and see where opportunities may exist for further conservation. The EUB also expected that these rankings would further result in companies improving reporting.

The accuracy of EUB published flaring and venting numbers is constantly being checked through field audits and inspections. For example, more than 4900 facility inspections were conducted in 1999/2000 and more than 4700 in 2000/2001.

CURRENT RESULTS

In July 2001, the second edition of the EUB's flaring report was released, *Statistical Series 2001-60B: Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring Report*, showing that in 2000, flaring of solution gas had been reduced by approximately 38 per cent from the 1996 baseline of 1340 million cubic metres (10^6 m^3). This greatly exceeded the 15 per cent reduction target that had been set for 2000 and, more important, also exceeded the 25 per cent reduction target for 2001 and improved upon the 30 per cent reduction recorded in 1999 (see table).

Solution Gas Flaring Reduction Schedule
(based on 1996 revised baseline)

	Firm Target	Actual
1999	None established	30%
2000	15%	38%
2001	25%	To be released in 2002

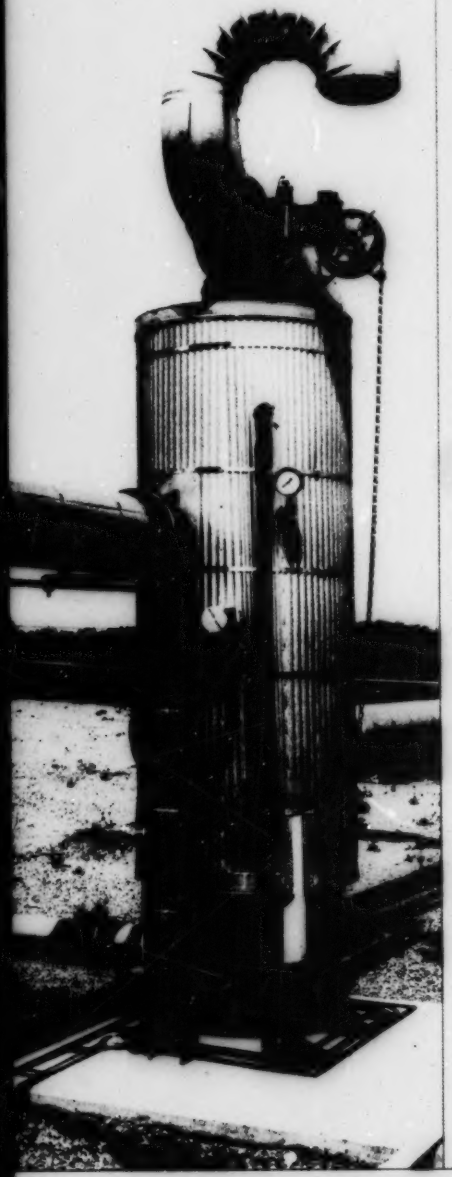
While significant progress has been made in reducing flaring, this is partially offset by an increase in volumes of solution gas vented, primarily at bitumen wells. Reporting showed that while only a small volume of solution gas was being vented on an individual well basis, overall venting was occurring at a large number of wells (over 3600 individual wells).

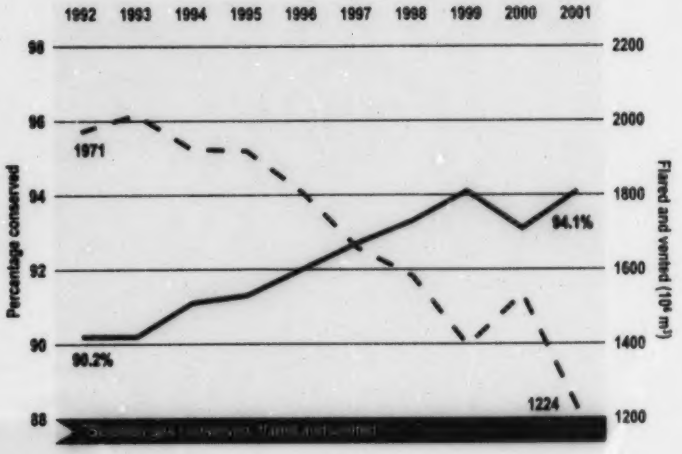
The volume of venting recorded in 2000 was 735 10^6 m^3. Although the volume of gas reported as vented in 1999 was 491 106 m^3, changes in measurement show that the actual volume was some 560 10^6 m^3; therefore the increase in venting from 1999 to 2000 was about 31 per cent. The EUB believes that concerted attention must be given to reducing venting and is targeting for its reduction.

As part of this, in September 2000, the CASA Board approved formation of a second flaring/venting project team to conduct a comprehensive review of all flaring and venting practices. Cochaired by the EUB, the CASA flaring/venting project team's review will make recommendations on what reduction and control requirements should be applied to vent gases. A final report will be issued in 2002.

As the chart shows, the oil and gas industry has recorded significant progress in both conserving natural gas and reducing flaring over the course of the 1990s. In 2000, the EUB recorded a 93 per cent solution gas conservation rate, compared to 94 per cent in 1999; however, the majority of the change can be attributed to changes in accounting practices rather than an actual decline in gas conserved. The EUB estimates that a decline of 0.4 per cent in solution gas conservation is the result of actual industry development activity.

Combined, the volume of solution gas flared and vented has declined from a decade-high volume of 2016 10^6 m^3 in 1993 to 1534 10^6 m^3 in 2000. This represents a 15 per cent reduction from the 1996 baseline.





The EUB expects operators to remain diligent in their efforts to ensure that every opportunity to reduce flaring and venting of solution gas is examined and implemented where appropriate. The EUB will continue to monitor flaring and venting reduction progress and annually update flaring performance management information, while working with stakeholders towards its goals of eliminating all routine solution gas flaring, significantly reducing solution gas venting, and minimizing flaring associated with other petroleum industry activities.

EUB Hosts Public at Open Houses

The EUB is strongly committed to improving communications between landowners and industry and encourages fair and equal opportunities for both sides to be heard. As a result, in March 2000, the EUB began holding open houses in various rural communities across Alberta.

Open houses provide a forum in which landowners, residents, and industry and government representatives can come together with EUB Field Centre staff, employees, and Board Members to discuss current or future energy projects and regulation activities within their communities. Also, it is an opportunity for local people to learn more about the EUB's role and responsibilities and its commitment to develop resources in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.

Feedback received on open house activities has been positive overall. However, the EUB continues to measure the effectiveness of these sessions by polling attendees and making changes and improvements as required.

HIGH LEVEL

On April 24, 2001, the Grande Prairie Field Centre held an open house at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in High Level. EUB Chairman Neil McCrank took this occasion to officially open the new EUB satellite office in High Level. Grande Prairie field staff, including two inspectors located at the High Level office, were introduced. In response to an EUB questionnaire, many of the 55 attendees stated that they came to meet local EUB staff and learn more about EUB processes.

The session started with general information about EUB enforcement ladders, flaring requirements, and application processes. EUB Field Centre staff then made a presentation about their activities in and around High Level, which was followed by a question-and-answer period. Visual displays included the EUB travel booth and information boards about the Grand Prairie Field Centre. Brochures, pamphlets, questionnaires, and other materials were available for attendees to take with them.

Afterward, attendees had the opportunity to engage EUB staff and Board Members in one-on-one discussions over refreshments.

MIDNAPORE

Approximately 100 people attended the Midnapore Field Centre open house at Red Deer Lake Community Hall on June 26, 2001. Local landowners, residents, and industry and government representatives came to discuss concerns about energy development in the area.

EUB Chairman Neil McCrank welcomed everyone to the open house and introduced staff from the Midnapore Field Centre. Main topics of discussion were field surveillance, the application process, appropriate dispute resolution, flaring, and public safety and sour gas. A panel made up of Board Members and senior staff then answered questions from the audience.

Display booths provided additional information about the EUB, enforcement, pipelines, flaring issues, applications procedures, and public safety and sour gas. As well, information packages were handed out to attendees.

Based on the response to the EUB questionnaire, a majority of participants said that they had attended because of a concern about energy development in their area and also in order to meet local EUB field staff.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

On October 24, 2001, the Red Deer Field Centre held an open house at the Rocky Mountain House Community Centre. Approximately 175 people attended the session, including representatives from local synergy groups, members of the public, industry and government representatives, and EUB staff.

Staff from the Red Deer Field Centre were introduced and gave presentations on field surveillance responsibilities, EUB flaring requirements, the animal health complaint and investigation procedure, and emergency preparedness and response. Displays booths were set up to provide information on the EUB, the Red Deer Field Centre, enforcement, pipelines, flaring issues, and public safety and sour gas. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to view and ask questions about the EUB's air-monitoring unit, which was on display.

About 36 per cent of attendees filled out the EUB questionnaire, most stating that they came to hear the concerns of residents and to promote concerns as a synergy group. The main issues discussed were clean air, water, and soil.

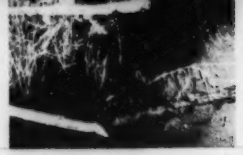
2002 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

There are three open houses scheduled for 2002:

- Pincher Creek (February)
- Bonnyville (June)
- Medicine Hat (November)

For more information, please contact your local EUB Field Centre or call the main EUB office in Calgary at (403) 297-8311 and ask for the Communications Group.

It is an opportunity for local people to learn more about the EUB's role and responsibilities and its commitment to develop resources in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.



Public Involvement and Building Positive Relationships

At the heart of public involvement is the desire to create positive, trusting relationships that foster innovative solutions when dealing with areas of conflicting interests.

The EUB serves a number of "publics," including the energy industry, the utilities industry, three levels of government, environmental groups, First Nations and Metis peoples, and especially individual Albertans and the communities in which they live. Each of these groups has a stake in the responsible development of Alberta's resources, and their diverse perspectives and experience must be considered by the regulator.

One of the driving forces behind public involvement has been the increasing numbers of urban residents who are purchasing land in country-residential communities throughout Alberta; this, coupled with an ever-increasing demand for oil, gas, and power, has resulted in a conflicting vision of land use between industry and landowners that has prompted individuals and their communities to raise legitimate concerns about the effect of resource development on humans, animals, and the environment.

Unquestionably, these stakeholders want to participate in the decisions that directly affect their lives and their communities to be certain that the EUB is doing everything possible to ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's energy resources take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.

Any EUB regulation, decision, or action must simultaneously address the public interest on three levels—individual, local, and provincial—as well as consider social, environmental, and economic impacts of implementation.

SYNERGY GROUPS MAKE COLLABORATIVE DECISIONS

One of the ways that the EUB stays abreast of the issues and concerns of Albertans is through participation in provincial synergy groups. A synergy group is an ongoing collaboration of diverse stakeholders (usually citizens, industry, and government) that undertake to resolve issues in a nonadversarial manner at the local level. It is within these multistakeholder processes that citizens have the greatest opportunity for influence in the decision-making process about resource development.

Each synergy group is shaped by those issues that affect its particular community. In other words, the development concerns of one area of the province will be distinct from another. Currently there are over 50 synergy groups in Alberta. EUB Field Surveillance staff are active participants in the synergy groups within their communities, providing indispensable technical and advisory support as they explore the current issues. As well, the EUB was cosponsor of a provincial conference for synergy group members and is undertaking research into the different groups' information needs.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN ONGOING INITIATIVES

For ongoing EUB initiatives, the advice of stakeholders is imperative to ensuring that the public interest is being met; it is used as a benchmark throughout the project life cycle to ensure that deliverables will be in line with the original project intent.

One example of stakeholder engagement in a current EUB project is the involvement of Alberta Youth through the Youth Energy Development Initiative (YEDI), a cross-government program designed to educate children 9 to 15 about the oil and gas industry. While creating multimedia materials such as the *Petroleum Play* workbook and the Science-in-a-Crate, the EUB is testing these items on sample target groups and accumulating input from educators before rolling out the finished product in the spring/summer of 2002.

Another example of ongoing stakeholder engagement is occurring as part of the Public Safety and Sour Gas (PS&SG) initiative. During extensive consultation with Albertans in 2000, the Provincial Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas heard that information-sharing and communications between Albertans and the energy industry on issues relating to sour gas were in need of improvement. As a result, the committee made 87 recommendations for improvements to the EUB's approach to sour gas operations, development planning and approval, health effects, emergency preparedness, and communications.

As part of implementing each recommendation, the EUB, now in year two of PS&SG, is inviting input or advice from appropriate stakeholders during the revision and development of those procedures, regulations, and requirements that are related to sour gas.

OPEN HOUSES ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

EUB open house sessions provide an opportunity to bring diverse members of the same community together in two-way communications about issues related to energy development in Alberta. At a typical EUB open house, landowners and residents interact directly with industry and government representatives.

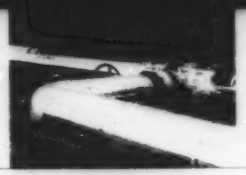
It is also an opportunity for the EUB to raise awareness among attendees from all sectors about EUB processes, policies, roles, and responsibilities. Local Field Centre staff, along with other EUB employees and Board members, are available to answer general questions and discuss overall community concerns, as well as engage in one-on-one discussions.

MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE

The EUB believes that all stakeholders have the right to appropriate and timely information and opportunities for constructive and meaningful participation in decisions about the development of Alberta's resources. Along with the right to participate, stakeholders have a responsibility to become informed, to focus on common interests, and to make the effort required to seek and implement mutually beneficial solutions.

The EUB is engaging in research, developing new communication tools, and constantly reviewing and improving regulations so our interaction with the public remains strong in the future.

For this reason, the EUB is engaging in research, developing new communication tools, and constantly reviewing and improving regulations so our interaction with the public remains strong in the future. Stakeholders are invited to express themselves through increasing community involvement and learning more about Alberta's resource development. The EUB will always be committed to building a regulatory framework that inspires public confidence.



Applications and Publication Summary

WELLS

- 14 473 new approvals (sweet single well, sweet multiwell pad, sour single well, sour multiwell pad, sour well, critical sour well)

PRODUCTION FACILITIES

- 1650 new sweet and sour facilities: oil and gas batteries, satellites, compressor stations, tank farms, pump stations
- 438 modifications to the above facilities
- No new sulphur recovery gas processing plants
- 7 modifications to sulphur recovery gas processing plants

PIPELINES

- 8392 pipeline permits for new construction and amendments to existing pipeline licences

OIL SANDS

- 5 registered applications/proceedings for new or expansion of existing mining or plant projects
- 17 nonregistered applications related to mine or plant operations
- 21 new experimental and primary recovery oil sands schemes
- 3 new commercial schemes

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- 312 sour gas flare permits

COAL

- 15 registered applications for new or modified coal projects
- 31 nonregistered applications related to mining operations

REFINERIES (OIL SANDS, OIL, OR GAS)

- 9 industrial development permits

RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

- 2286 applications for reservoir schemes, spacing, commingling, and others.

UTILITIES

- 185 electric facility applications (applications for transmission lines and substations, power plants, industrial system designations, electrification association and service area change)
- 27 gas utilities applications
- 202 electric utilities applications
- 130 special franchise agreements
- 31 other types of applications (sale of assets, milk price orders, exemptions)
- 2 nonroutine complaints

MAPS

Designated Oil and Gas Fields and Oil Sands Deposits (Dec 2001)

Oil Sands Deposits and Active Projects Maps (Dec 2001)

Rural Gas Utility Franchise Areas (May 2001)

Map of Alberta Strike Areas (May 2001)

STATISTICAL SERIES

ST-41: Regulatory Highlights for 2000 (July 2001)

ST-45: Coal Mine Atlas: Operating and Abandoned Coal Mines in Alberta, 4th edition, Version 1.0 (2001)

ST-57: Field Surveillance Provincial Summary April 2000/March 2001

ST-60B: Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring Report

ST-98: Alberta's Reserves 2000 and Supply/Demand Outlook 2001-2010

GUIDES

Guide 7: Production Accounting Handbook (May 2001)

Guide 7-1: Allowables Handbook: Guidelines for the Calculation of Monthly Production Allowables in Alberta (Dec 2001)

Guide 14: PVT and Core Studies Index (February 2001)

Guide 31A: Guidelines for Energy Cost Claims (June 2001)

Guide 31B: Guidelines for Utility Cost Claims (June 2001)

Guide 55: Storage Requirements for the Upstream Petroleum Industry (December 2001)

Guide 59: Well Drilling and Completion Data Filing Requirements (May 2001)

Guide 60: Updates and Clarification (February 2001)

Guide 63: Oilfield Waste Management Facility Inspection Manual (January 2001)

Guide 66: Pipeline Inspection Manual (November 2001)

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

Across the Board (Monthly Newsletter)

Community Update: EUB Approves Proposed AES Power Plant (December 2001)

Introduction to GIAG: Government-Industry Advisory Group on Gas and Bitumen Conservation in Oil Sands Areas (2001)

Public Safety Implementation Team Outreach Sessions: Summary of Feedback (2001)

Public Safety and Sour Gas Brochure (2001)

Public Safety and Sour Gas Community Rollout Schedule (2001)

Public Safety and Sour Gas Implementation Plan (2001)

Public Safety and Sour Gas Implementation Plan: Consultations, Aboriginal Communities Summary (2001)

Public Safety and Sour Gas Quarterly Progress Reports

ALBERTA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ESR 00-08 Diamond and Metallic Mineral Potential of Peerless Lake Map Area. D. Roy Eccles, Mike Haynes and William Csanyi

ESR 00-15D Quaternary stratigraphy of the buried Birch and Willaim bedrock channels, northeastern Alberta. Andriashek, L

ESR 00-18 A Preliminary Compendium of Drill Core at the Alberta Geological Suvey, and a Bibliography of Pertinent References, for that Portion of the Athabasca Basin, Alberta

ESR 01-01 GIS Compilation of Structural Elements in Northen Alberta, Release 1.0. Pana D., J. Waters, M. Grobe

ESR 01-19 Regional Evaluation of the Coalbed-Methane Potential of the Foothills/Mountains of Alberta. Langenberg C.W., A. Beaton, H. Berhane

ESR 2001-1 Regional Evaluation of the Coalbed-Methane Potential of the Foothills/Mountains of Alberta. C.W. Langenberg, A. Beaton, H. Berhane

GEO 00-01 Bedrock Topography, Drift Thickness, and Bu ied Channels, Northeast Alberta. Andriashek, L.D., J. Meeks

GEO 00-04 Quaternary Geology Northern Alberta: Information Sources and Implications for Diamond Exploration, Fenton M., J. Pawlowicz

INF 123 Alberta Geological Survey's Contributions for the Calgary Mining Forum, April 18-19, 2001

INF 124 Alberta Geological Survey to the CSPG Annual Convention June 18-22, 2001. Beaton A., D. Chen, R. Richardson, L. Andriashek, J. Pawlowicz, M. Fenton, I. Ranger, W. Lanmgenberg, F. Hein, C. Pana, T. Lemay, S. Stewart

MAP 237 Geological map: Coal Valley mapsheet NTS 83F/2. Langenberg, C.W., J. LeDrew, D.K. Chao

MAP 239 Surficial geology of Wapiti area, NTS 83L. L.D. Andriashek

MAP 250 Bedrock Topography of the Winefred Map Area. NTS 73M, AB

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